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23-18-04

RCE/12800

**REQUEST
FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)**

Subsection (m) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000,
Provides for continued examination of a utility or plant

Application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA)

Application Number: 10/074,135
Filing Date: February 12, 2002
First Named Inventor: Thoma et al.
Group Art Unit: 2828
Examiner Name: Leon Scott Jr.
Attorney Docket Number: US 20 01 0575
CUSTOMER NO.: 27,623

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Note: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 153 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (August 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (March 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

a. _____ Previously submitted

i. _____ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 previously filed on _____ (any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).

ii. _____ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____

iii. _____ Other _____

b. XXXX Enclosed

i. XXXX Amendment/Reply

ii. _____ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)

iii. _____ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) and PTO-1449

iv. _____ Other _____

2. Miscellaneous

a. _____ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required)

b. _____ Other _____

3. **Fees** The RCE fee Under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a. XXXX The Director is hereby authorized to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 01-0467.

i. XXXX RCE fee (\$770.00) required under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e)

ii. _____ Extension of Time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)

iii. _____ Other _____

b. XXXX Check in the amount of \$770.00 enclosed

c. _____ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

March 17, 2004

Date of Signature

John Yankovich

Attorney for Applicants

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CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Certificate No. EV376161200, service under 37 CFR §1.10 and is addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 17, 2004.

Allison Berkman
(Typed name of person mailing paper)

(Signature of person mailing paper)